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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

It is important to a right understanding of the practice of Hahnemann, that his views of the nature of disease, should be distinctly comprehended. He says:—

"In the healthy condition of man, the im-

material vital principle which animates the material body, exercises an absolute sway and maintains all its parts in the most admirable order and harmony, both of sensation and action, so that our indwelling rational spirit may freely employ these living healthy organs for the superior purposes of our existence. The material organism deprived of its vital principle, is incapable of sensation, action, or self preservation; it is the immaterial vital principle only, animating the former in its healthy and morbid condition, that imparts to it all sensation and enables it to perform its functions.

"In disease this spontaneous and immaterial vital principle pervading the physical organism, is primarily deranged by the dynamic influence of a morbid agent which is inimical to life. Only the vital principle thus disturbed, can give to the organism its abnormal sensations and incline it to the irregular actions which we call disease; for as an invisible principle duly cognizable through its operations in the organism, its morbid disturbances can be perceived solely by means of the expression of disease in the sensations and actions of that side of the organism exposed to the senses of the physician and bystanders, in other words, by the *morbid symptoms*, and can be indicated in no other manner. It is solely the morbidly affected vital principle which brings forth diseases, so that the expression of disease, perceptible by the senses, announces at the same time all the internal change, that is, all the morbid perturbations of the vital principle; in short, it displays the entire disease. Consequently, after a cure is effected, the cessation of all morbid expression, and of all sensible changes which are inconsistent with the healthy performance of the functions, necessarily pre-supposes, with an equal degree of certainty, a restoration of the vital principle to its state of integrity and the recovered health of the whole organism. In what manner the vital principle produces morbid indications in the system, that is, how it produces disease, is to the physician a useless question, and therefore will ever remain unanswered. Disease, therefore, (those forms of it not belonging to manual surgery,) considered as it is by the allopathists as *something* separate from the living organism and the vital principle which animates it, as something hidden internally, and material, how subtle soever its nature may be supposed, is a non-

entity, which could only be conceived in heads of material mould, and which for ages, hitherto, has given to medicine all those pernicious deviations which constitute it a mischievous art."

There is nothing in the above extract which is inconsistent with known physiological laws. This doctrine is now generally received by the profession; but whether it is so or not, it would be no easy task to disprove it. We assume that these views are correct, and they should not be forgotten by the student of homœopathy: if kept before his mind, what is to follow will harmonize so naturally, as to allow of a clear view of the practice of Hahnemann, and almost force a conviction of its truth.

(To be Continued.)

OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY.

(Continued.)

Medical men have tried Homœopathy and have found it not to be true.

This is of all objections to Homœopathy that which ought to have the greatest weight. Unprofessional persons may be deluded, carried away by enthusiasm, grasp at homœopathy as a novelty and a means of conversational excitement, and it is natural that the medical profession should be looked up to for a decision of the question whether homœopathy be true or not. They are supposed to be fully acquainted with the subject, not only in the interest of medical science, but, above all, on account of the immense responsibility inseparably connected with the practice of an art which in so many ways affects the health, life and happiness of individuals and families. Thousands of medical men have deemed it their conscientious duty candidly and fully to examine the doctrine of Hahnemann, both theoretically and practically; and these men are now, almost without exception, in the ranks of homœopathy. But there is an infinitely greater number who are either totally or in a great measure unacquainted with its theory and practice, as they daily prove both in their conversation and writing; yet who, notwithstanding, never hesitate giving a final opinion on the subject. Some have indeed made experiments with homœopathy and have failed, and although the failure of these experiments was owing entirely to their want of acquaintance with the principles and practice of homœopathy, yet their assertions, with regard to it, are frequently ta-

ken by the public at large as absolutely true. On this kind of opposition we offer the following remarks.

When any person in ordinary life gives a peremptory opinion on any subject, one naturally supposes that he is fully acquainted with that subject. If, however, it is found that such is not the case, no one to say the least, attaches any importance to what he says. Why may we ask, should this not be the same with regard to so important a subject as homœopathy? There are at present comparatively few medical men who have read a single book on homœopathy, or who frame their opinion upon anything better than the numerous abusive articles which frequently appear in the periodical Medical press. Would it not be fair to expect that any person who gives an opinion on homœopathy, should be well informed on the subject; and, if he is not, is not his opinion without any value? The circumstance that the main object of Homœopathy is the same as that of allopathy, namely, the cure of disease, can as such, no more enable a medical man of the old school to pronounce properly on homœopathy, than the commander of a sailing vessel could be looked upon as a competent judge on the merits of steamers, merely because both have for their object the carrying of passengers and merchandise.

This remark may also be fully applied to such practical trials as medical men have sometimes made of homœopathy and which have failed in their hands. We have frequently stated before, that the proper practice of homœopathy is one of the most difficult tasks which any man can undertake. It is not only necessary that the experimenter should lay aside his ordinary notions of medical practice, but also that he should be fully acquainted with the principles of homœopathy regarding diseases and other points, and above all, with the homœopathic materia medica; it requires besides candor of purpose and the ability of applying his theoretical knowledge to concrete cases of disease. When we examine the experiments which have been made by medical men on homœopathy and have failed, we invariably find that these essential conditions have been more or less neglected: and this assertion applies prominently to those experiments which were made by Mr. Andral in Paris, and which are so frequently brought forward as proofs of the inefficacy of homœopathy. These experiments are, strange to say, so utterly destitute of value in any point of view, that the merest tyro in

homœopathy would be ashamed of them. We hold it to be a point of almost mathematical certainty, that any candid medical man who in testing the value of homœopathy in practice adheres to the above mentioned conditions, will find that the system is true, and that the results answer his best expectations. But to presume that practical trials should succeed without a proper acquaintance with the subject, is contrary to common sense, and to expect that a medical man of the old school should, merely as such, be competent to institute them properly, is as little likely as that a person who can drive an ordinary coach, should be, for that reason, able to conduct a locomotive on a railway. If medical men, instead of abusing homœopathy in passionate language little worthy of scientific pursuit, would study that system patiently, and after doing so, institute candid and fair trials, they would follow the only true method of investigating the subject, and then either reject or adopt it according as their own conviction and sense of duty would impel them to do.

Homœopathy is going down every where.

If homœopathy did not rest upon the unalterable basis of truth, it is more than probable that, as other so called systems brought forward from time to time in medicine, it would have shot up like a bright meteor to dazzle the eye of the beholder, to fall, be extinguished and forgotten after a short-lived existence. Every one is aware that such is not the case. Fifty-five years has now passed since its discovery, and every year has witnessed its gradual but sure and steady progress. In the present history of homœopathy we may establish two broad periods; the first dating from its beginning to the time when cholera appeared in Europe; the second, from that to the present time. If during the former the progress of homœopathy was slow and almost exclusively limited to Germany, its development during the second has been so rapid and extensive among both the profession and the public, in all parts of the civilized world, that it has become a serious rival to its older sister. Perhaps at no previous period had allopathy manifested more conspicuously the precarious character of its resources and the uncertainty of its results, than when that destructive epidemic swept irresistibly over the civilized parts of Europe; and at no previous period had the truth, certainty and practical worth of homœopathy shone forth more brilliantly. Official

experiment instituted by several governments, as well as the early experience of that time, led to the melancholy truth that fifty per cent. of persons attacked with cholera died, whether left to nature alone or put under the care of allopathy; on the other side it was ascertained in the same official manner, that only eight to 8½ per cent. died when treated homœopathically. Hundreds of contradictory remedies and prescriptions were recommended by the allopathic school, and all tried in vain; four or five different medicines were recommended by the immortal founder of homœopathy, and led to the above favorable results.

These events did not escape the public eye, and a system which was able to struggle so successfully with an enemy who defied all the weapons of the ordinary medicine, could not possibly be what its opponents had always represented it to be, and therefore a powerful reaction took place in its favor. Governments which, through their medical councils, had impeded the progress of the new doctrine in every possible way, repealed their interdictory edicts and favored its establishment by grants of public money; the public combined for the establishment of hospitals, dispensaries and other means of propagation, and the impulse which homœopathy received at that time became the main cause of its rapid and extensive propagation during latter years, and of the imposing external position which it now occupies every where. Fifteen years ago homœopathy was adopted by only very few medical men out of Germany, and there is not now a country, which has the slightest claim to civilization, in which its professional, or at least its unprofessional adherents, are not most numerous. There were for instance, at that time only three or four homœopathic physicians in Vienna, and there are now more than a hundred; there were two or three in Paris, and there are now upwards of ninety; in London it was altogether unknown, and there are now more than twenty professional adherents. In Edinburgh, the classical seat of medical science, the new heresy has made very extensive progress, and Dr. Henderson, Professor of General Pathology at the University, has openly embraced it. In Sicily, ten years ago the very name of homœopathy was unknown, and now the number of homœopathic practitioners exceeds by far that of the followers of allopathy throughout the island. About the same time it was still unknown in the United States of America, and there are now, upwards of 1000 physicians

who have frankly embraced homœopathy. In Germany, its native country, it is now after fifty years' severe struggle, fully recognized. Governments which formerly threw every obstacle in the way of homœopathy, now give it their open legal support and secure it in its rights and privileges.

In Prussia and Brunswick, homœopathy forms part of the official medical examination, and it is not a little curious to see that some of the most eminent professors who had formerly never studied homœopathy, and therefore, were its violent opponents, are now obliged to act as official examiners. At many of the German Universities, regular lectures are given on homœopathy; many members of the reigning houses in Europe have selected their medical attendants from among the homœopaths. In France the system is widely spread among the medical practitioners, and also among the professors of some Universities; the same in Spain Italy and Sweden. In Russia also, homœopathy is extensively diffused and enjoys full legal support.

These few statistical data, which might easily be increased, will, we hope, suffice to show that *Homœopathy is not going down every where.*—*Concise View, &c.*

LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The several varieties of cutaneous affections which existed in the earliest ages of mankind, and those described by Moses, Hahnemann attributed to *psora*, "which appears at that time to have especially affected the external parts of the body." It occurred as leprosy; in the middle ages, in Europe, as erysipelas; and again in the 15th century in the form of leprosy;—"names are of no consequence, since the essence of this miasm is every where the same. Nevertheless, *psora*, spreading farther and farther in the form of a horrible eruption upon the skin, found at least some external alleviation in those means of cleanliness which the crusaders had brought along with them from the East, such as (cotton, linen) shirts which had been unknown in Europe heretofore, and the frequent use of warm baths, together with an increasing refinement and more select nourishment, succeeded, in a couple of centuries, in diminishing the disgusting appearance of *psora*, so as to reduce the disease, towards the end of the fifteenth century, to the ordinary eruption of the itch.

The psoric eruption which appeared after infection had taken place, and which, in civilized countries had been reduced to a simple manifestation of the common itch, was easily driven from the skin by all sorts of contrivances. By means of baths, lotions, sulphur ointments, preparations of lead, copper, zinc, and mercury, of which the middle and higher classes availed themselves, the psoric eruption was often, and is now so quickly suppressed, that it remained often unknown whether a child or a full-grown person, in those classes, had been infected with the itch.

But the cause of humanity was not improved by these proceedings; on the contrary, in many respects it grew worse. During the centuries when the psoric eruption was first known in the form of leprosy, the patients though they suffered much in consequence of lancinating pains in the tumours and scabs, and the vehement itching all around, enjoyed nevertheless a fair share of general health. For, the obstinately lasting eruption upon the skin served as a substitute for the internal psora; and, what is more, the horrible and disgusting appearance of leprosy patients made such an impression upon all healthy persons that they were frightened away already at a distance; in this way the leprosy patients being kept apart from human society in separate houses, the contagion remained limited and was, comparatively speaking, rare.

The milder forms of psora which appeared again, as has been mentioned before, during the 14th and 15th centuries, in the shape of the itch, infected a far greater number than the leprosy patients were able to do, whose frightful appearance caused them to be carefully avoided by every body. The itch vesicles do scarcely appear, and may be easily kept concealed; but being constantly scratched open in consequence of the intolerable itching, and the fluid being spread over the skin and those things which had been touched by such patients, the infection, being concealed, takes place the more easily and certainly, and affects a greater number.

In this way psora has become the most contagious and the most universal of the chronic miasms.

The more concealed and proportionately easier and more frequent infection of the itch is not the only disadvantage which has resulted for mankind from the psoric miasm having been reduced from leprosy to the common itch. There is another disadvantage, which is this,

that the essence of this reduced psora is unchanged, that it is equally formidable as before and that, being more easily repelled from the skin, it appears so much more imperceptibly upon the inner surfaces; the chief symptom, which is the external eruption, having been suppressed, it produces an innumerable quantity of secondary chronic ailments. Physicians lose sight of the origin of that host of secondary morbid symptoms; they are unable to discover it, and the secondary disease is just as incurable as had been the original malady with its eruption existing upon the skin. This had in fact, never been thoroughly cured, as experience showed, but had constantly been made worse by a quantity of false remedies.

At the time when the psoric poison was yet reduced to its formidable external substitute leprosy, there were much less nervous affections, painful ailments, spasms, cancerous ulcers, adventitious formations, weaknesses, paralyzes, consumptions, and degenerations of either body or soul, than there are now. These have especially appeared in the last three centuries from the above named causes.

Psora became therefore the common mother of most chronic diseases.

Modern physicians, even the most distinguished, without excepting almost any, either teacher or author, have established the rule, and have given it almost as an infallible proposition, "that every psoric eruption is a mere local affection of the skin, with which the organism has nothing to do; that the eruption may be unhesitatingly removed by sulphur ointments, by the more active ointment of Jassei, by sulphur fumigations, by solutions of lead or zinc, but most speedily by mercurial preparations; that health is restored as soon as the external eruption has been removed; that it is indeed true that, by neglecting the eruption and leaving it upon the skin, the morbid matter may be finally absorbed into the humours; that it may deteriorate the blood, and ruin the general health; that these perverted humours may however be easily removed out of the system by purgatives and bloodlettings; but that all these secondary diseases may be entirely avoided by speedily removing the eruption from the skin." There never was taught a doctrine which has been more fraught with evil consequences for mankind.

Such horrible untruths were not only taught formerly, but they are taught and even practiced in our days. In the most celebrated civil and military hospitals of the most enlightened

countries and cities, and also among private patients of all classes, in prisons and orphan asylums, in short, all those who are affected with the itch, are ordered, by common as well as distinguished physicians, to use external applications for the purpose of removing the eruption the sooner the better, (as they imagine;) they may use perhaps large quantities of flower of sulphur internally, and some strong purgatives, with a view, as they suppose, of cleansing the system. This being done, they impudently assert that the disease is cured, and the patients are dismissed without the least regard for the secondary ailments which will certainly sooner or later manifest themselves as results of the psoric reaction.

The deceived and unfortunate patients sooner or later return to the hospital, affected with the unavoidable consequences of the former treatment, such as swellings, obstinate pain in various parts of the body, hypochondria, hysteria, gout, consumption, tubercular phthisis, spasmodic asthma, blindness, deafness, paralysis, carcinoma of the bones, cancerous ulcers, spasms, hemorrhage, diseases of the mind and the soul, etc. These are considered new diseases, and without suspecting their origin, treated according to the usual routine of therapeutics. But the remedies are directed against phantoms, imaginary causes, until, after many years of increasing suffering, death ensues, and frees the patients from the hands of the doctor.

In the treatment of psora the older physicians were much more conscientious than modern doctors are, and they were much more enlightened observers. Their practice was based upon experience, which showed them that the removal of the psoric eruption from the skin by external applications was followed by innumerable ailments, and the most grievous chronic maladies. Hence they concluded that every case of itch originated in some internal disease, which they endeavoured to cure, as well as possible, by an innumerable quantity of their therapeutic agents. Of course, their endeavors were fruitless, for they were ignorant of the only true method of curing psoric diseases, which it was reserved for homœopathy to reveal to the world. Nevertheless, their efforts being aimed at removing the internal disease, which had given origin to the eruption upon the skin, they deserve much praise. In this respect the older physicians differ from the modern, whose chief object is to remove the itch from the

skin as though it were a mere cutaneous disease, without dreaming of the subsequent injuries which the older physicians have, in a thousand instances, exhibited in their works as warning examples.

But the remarks of these honest practitioners are too striking to be left unnoticed, or to be treated with contempt.

I shall subjoin here some of the innumerable cases of malpractice in the treatment of the itch, which the older physicians have left us, and which will be found sufficient, though I might double the number by quoting the cases which I have witnessed myself, to prove that the internal *psora* breaks forth with a perfect rage whenever it has been deprived of its external substitute, the cutaneous eruption. Would that the physician might learn from these cases that all his efforts should be directed against the internal disease, and that an adequate cure of this disease will not only cause the cutaneous eruption completely to disappear, but will prevent, and in case they should already exist, will cure all the secondary chronic ailments consequent upon psoric reaction, and undermining the patient's life to his last moment.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

In treating of the eruptions upon the skin incident to the period of teething, whatever may be their form, external appearance, or by whatever names designated, whether as *crusta lactea*, (scald head,) tooth rashes, sprue, red gum, excoriations, etc., our object is to show that the treatment should be constitutional, and by means adapted to rid the system of the predisposing cause or latent virus giving rise to them, and the danger and inutilty of the old treatment—especially from external applications; and this we are enabled fully to do, from the writings of *allopathic* physicians.—We quote from Rayner on Diseases of the Skin.

"In academical collections, instances may be found recorded of diseases of the digestive organs following the disappearance of tetter or tineas. These cases, however, rarely occur, and seem often little conclusive. The numerous inquiries that have been instituted in later times in regard to diseases of the stomach, of the intestinal canal and of parts connected with these, have added but little to the

earlier observations we possess; their causes have too frequently been overlooked, or passed by in silence.

"Several cases tend to show that the suppression of an eruption or of a scabies may occasion epilepsy, insanity, and other cerebral affections. In the year 1785 at Bassenheim, on the left bank of the Rhine, a corporal, about 21 years of age, of a spare and bilious temperament, laboring under a severe tettery affection, about four inches in diameter, situated on the fore and upper part of the right thigh, was received into the hospital. The disease extended over a small part of the scrotum, and caused violent itching there. M. Bouillard chief surgeon of the hospital, employed a palliative and cautious treatment in the first instance; but, by and by, yielding to the importunities of the patient, who complained of the intolerable prurities (itching) of the affected part which prevented all sleep, he gave his consent to the application of compresses, dipped in vinegar and water, to the seat of the disease. His surprise was great the next day when he found this man in a deplorable condition. The eruption had disappeared from the limb, but a state of somnolence, attended with stertorous breathing and complete absence of sensation and voluntary motion, supervened immediately afterwards. Every means was tried to bring back the disease; blisters were applied to the spot first affected, and measures calculated to subdue the apoplectic metastasis were exhausted in vain. The cerebral disease continued to advance unchecked, and the patient died on the third day.

"Pulmonary consumption has been seen following the cure of herpetic affections. Lentin, Loder, Pederit, and Portal, have given cases of phthisis which were ascribed to the suppression of the perspiration from the soles of the feet. A young man whom I had cured (?) of an eczema of the legs, was attacked almost immediately after with a pleurisy, for which he put himself under my care, and from which he was relieved without any return of the eruption. I have seen bronchitis follow the cure (suppression?) of rupia in a scrofulous subject; and I have collected several analogous instances of pulmonary inflammation following the methodic cure of eczema, of various species of lichen and of psoriasis.

"Diseases of the heart and its membranes, have also been observed to follow the suppres-

sion of various forms of cutaneous inflammations.

Admitting always that these affections are deserving of much attention, I yet affirm that the mischiefs attributed to the removal of tetter and tineas are much rarer than is generally imagined.* The most common consequences of these retrocessions observed are ophthalmic affections, inflammations of the glands of the neck, otitis, deafness and now and then hydro cephalus acutus in infancy; pulmonary catarrh, phthisis and other affections of the thoracic viscera in young people; affections of the liver, ascites (dropsy,) cystitis, &c., in riper years and in old age."

Here are consequences enough, it must be conceded, to establish the conviction, in the mind of the thinking and prudent physician, of the danger to be apprehended from the suppression of eruptions, and that the ordinary means used by which such results are effected, cannot be warranted upon any sound pathological or therapeutic principle.

If the very great variety in form and appearance of these chronic cutaneous affections, are but so many varying manifestations of an inherent constitutional cause, which becomes thus developed in accordance with peculiar circumstances and exciting causes, some general and fixed laws of cure should be known to the profession, by which the treatment should be directed, and prove to be such that while it is capable of eradicating the evil from the system it shall not be liable to produce these dangerous retrocessions and metastasis to internal parts, and engender obstinate and incurable forms of the disease. That the profession have till now been without any such fixed laws, and have been guided solely by various and constantly changing and multiplying expedients, to the establishment of neither safe nor certain rules of practice, is quite apparent.

"An infinity of remedies and of different curative plans have been recommended in acute and chronic inflammatory affections of the skin, in a manner so general as to render the study of their principal applications, from the

* Our author gives no reasons for this affirmation. The presumption certainly is, from his own observations and statement of facts, that the mischiefs attributed to the removal of these skin affections, are much more frequent than is generally imagined—like causes are apt to produce like effects.

same point of view, a subject of positive utility. This first glance will also recall to our notice certain therapeutical investigations which it would be well to repeat at the present day, and under better ascertained conditions.

"The treatment of chronic diseases of the skin is held with justice to be one of the most difficult matters in the healing art. Besides getting occasionally well under the influence of the most dissimilar remedies, the choice and application, and occasion to make use of which are beset with numerous difficulties and much uncertainty, we cannot conceal from ourselves something of a secret disinclination to attack many of these affections, the disappearance of which may be succeeded by more or less serious symptoms.

We give a few quotations from the treatment recommended, which comprise the best and most approved means known to the profession, collected from the best authorities of the school. These are an 'infinity,' extending over many large quarto pages, and from which may be seen, not only the variety, but the uncertainty of the means employed—the inefficiency of many, and the positive ill effects of others.

"Vegetable diet, while meats, &c., are available in a great many chronic inflammations of the skin * * *

"Milk diet, perseveringly employed, has accomplished cures where pharmaceutical preparations, directed with the best views, had totally failed * * * Veal or chicken broth may be recommended to those who have a distaste to the habitual use of milk; particular advantages have been presumed, by some, to be possessed by broths made from the sea-turtle, from the lizard and the viper; and the numerous cases detailed of their good effects in Italy, Germany, France and England, in cases of cancer, lepra, elephantiasis, syphilitic eruptions, &c., should induce us, without prejudice, to repeat these experiments.

"Fasting has been recommended in various forms of chronic inflammations of the skin, and particularly in syphilitic affections. * * * Under the influence of these severe fasts, the constitution is so much weakened, that though the skin diseases get well, the strict regimen has often to be abandoned; and then the eruptions reappear in the same measure as the general health improves under the stimulus of a better diet.

"If the advantages of an appropriate regimen are well proved, the mischiefs arising

from imprudences and irregularities in the mode of living, from the abuse of coffee, of strong drink, of salt and highly seasoned food, &c., are not less apparent. It is enough, in a great number of cases, for patients in the way of recovery, or actually well, to abandon for a moment the strict system they had followed, to suffer an increase or recurrence of the disease. Sometimes, too, these relapses happen *after such an interval as seemed to warrant some remission of the severe watch* that had been previously kept over the kinds and quantities of food employed."

It will appear from the *frequent return* of these eruptions, notwithstanding the *cures* effected by these and similar means, that the cause is inherent in the system; and the object of art should be to eradicate it, rather than to get rid of its external development. Till this is accomplished, it is far better that the eruption should remain, and until then, it is improper to talk of cures. In making these extracts, our purpose is, to determine correct principles for the management of these affections. The cause being constitutional, and the same, at whatever period of life, and from whatever exciting causes these eruptions make their appearance, the principle of treatment must be the same. Whenever they do appear they furnish an indication for the employment of specific remedies; and as they are more commonly developed during childhood, and especially at the period of teething, they are more susceptible of radical cure; it is of the highest importance that the proper treatment be ascertained and employed, otherwise the cause will remain in the system, and become from time to time, according to circumstances and the operation of exciting causes, manifested by means of these eruptions, or remain latent, predisposing the system to attacks of acute disease, or become developed upon internal parts, giving rise to many chronic ailments and sufferings, or productive of organic lesions. In our next article we shall speak of the use of *external remedies*.

CASE OF CROUP.

The following interesting paper was read to the "Homœopathic Society of New York," by Doctor Bayard. By resolution of the Society, its publication was requested in the American Journal of Homœopathy.

"On Tuesday the 1st of Dec., the patient a

girl of thirteen, was suffering from catarrh, with severe pain in her head and back—nux was administered at night, a few pellets of the fourth or fifth dilution. On Wednesday morning she coughed frequently and complained of great soreness of the throat, difficulty of swallowing, &c. Belladonna was given, and as there was little or no melioration of the symptoms, in the evening it was followed by Merc. viv. The weather was now severely cold and from reckless exposure of herself during rain on Thursday, her sufferings seemed much increased. In the afternoon of that day her face became flushed, her skin dry and hot, and the difficulty of swallowing so great that she refused to eat or drink. About 7 P. M., she retired to bed, and remained quiet, and as it was supposed, asleep, for some time; but between 9 and 10 P. M., one of the family passing her door, was startled by hearing a rough, hoarse, barking cough, which seemed to come with every inhalation of the breath. There was something indescribably alarming in its sound which told the most inexperienced that there was not a moment to be lost in administering the appropriate remedies. Accordingly Aconite—about a dozen pellets of the fourth or fifth dilution dissolved in three-fourths of a tumbler of water—was given two or three times, at intervals of fifteen or twenty minutes—then spongia of the same dilution, prepared in the same way, was alternated with the aconite. No change occurred in the symptoms except what seemed a rapid progression of the disease, the cough becoming more deep and hoarse, the flush of the face deepening first into crimson and then into purple, and the contortions of the whole form, showing the agony with which every breath was won.

Such was the condition of the patient at midnight, when Dr. Bayard arrived, too late, it was feared, to be of service. "She will die before morning," had been the conviction of every one who heard that cough, and when, in less than half an hour after Dr. Bayard's arrival, its deep, rough sound became in some degree changed, and its violence lessened, every heart sank under the sad impression that the powers of life were failing, and the stillness which soon succeeded that change was fearful to those who stood not beside her, for it seemed to them as the stillness of death. In little more than an hour after first seeing her, Dr. Bayard was able to leave her without apprehension. The medicine, of which a single dose had produced such wonderful results,

was left for her with directions that it should not be repeated, unless there should be a decided revival of the symptoms that had first demanded it. The patient slept with little interruption for several hours, and it was not till nearly 6 A. M., that the cough returned with any persistence. The medicine was repeated—half a spoonful of the water in which it had been dissolved being given—it gave immediate and enduring relief. The patient had no return of cough or hoarseness."

The above statement was drawn up at my request, by the accomplished author of "Two Lives, &c., who was an eye witness to the sufferings of the child. I found the patient under a harsh dry cough, the respiration stridulous, the expression of the countenance anxious, the cheeks puffed and livid, pulse frequent and small, extremities cold—great restlessness and jactitation. On looking into the throat, I found the fauces highly inflamed and swollen. I dissolved six pellets of the Kali Bichro., of the 6th dilution, in a tumbler half full of water, and under these circumstances I administered a dessert spoonful of the solution. In ten minutes thereafter, there were pauses in the before incessant cough—in thirty minutes the child had sunk into a quiet sleep, and the difficult respiration subsided.

HOMŒOPATHY IN MICHIGAN.

The following is from a member of the bar in Michigan, from whom we published an interesting communication in a former number of the Journal.

"I have read with special interest the article in your Journal of January 6th, on *Amateur practice*, in relation to which I have felt so sensitive, and so fully agree with its sentiments, that I beg leave to say a few words on the subject.

Having no homœopathic physician in our place, I have been forced by circumstances, against my inclination, occasionally to administer the remedies. Since I gave you an account of the success of the remedies in my hands, some months ago, I have avoided making any prescriptions, except in my own family, unless at the urgent solicitation of particular friends; and only then after careful study, close observation, and anxious thought, because I feel a deep and solemn conviction of the truth of homœopathic law and of the importance of its careful and skillful application

I am continually applied to for medicine, but uniformly decline prescribing, referring patients to Drs. Wheaton & Ellis of Detroit, and they are gratified with the result of their treatment.

Our new Methodist Minister, partly educated as a physician, is a decided and intelligent Homœopathist. He has prescribed a good deal amongst his people and with proper caution. They are consequently favourably impressed with the superiority of the practice, and are longing for a physician.

The Methodist Bishop, at the late annual conference for this state, decidedly recommended Homœopathy, as I am informed, to the ministers; and the interest in the new system is becoming deep and wide spread.

In intelligent and honest hands, nothing can stay its progress, until medicine has undergone a radical reformation. I thank Providence that I have been able to throw any light on this subject, and to have been the means of affording relief to any who have long been seeking it in vain.

I will give you one or two records of my own doings:

Some six weeks since, there was a working man, in our village, who had chills and fevers for two months, and with all the strong doses, he could not get rid of the unpleasant disease. For all this time he was unable to work. He had become very weak, had nightly sweats, &c. &c. His employer was very urgent that I should try to prescribe. I gave him a dose of Carbo Veg: on his tongue at noon. Next morning he had bilious vomiting, &c. His ague fits being expected that evening, and temperament, &c., concurring, I gave him Pulsatilla two pills, every three or four hours. He had no more ague. The following day—having yellow skin, night sweats and great weakness—I gave him two pellets Arsenicum 30th att. and the following morning two more, and told him to let it act. He took no more, and went to work in about five days, and is now well and hardy.

A few days ago a lady, resident at Utica, thirteen miles from this place, came here on a visit and was attacked with ague. She was very anxious to try Homœopathy, and her husband joined in an earnest request that I should prescribe. She being one of the loveliest of women and an old friend I agreed, and he left her in town for that purpose. I gave her Carbo Veg: two doses, which ended the ague. I then gave Puls. and Nux. and finally

Sulp. 30, for a cold and hoarseness, as well as for the purpose of antidoting the calomel, &c. She already considers herself *well*. She has had the ague ever since last summer, never being clear of it for a longer period than ten days or two weeks. I was perfectly confident of the result, or I should not have undertaken it. I have discovered that by the new system, these old and obstinate agues are much more easily cured than recent cases; whereas the old system has to abandon them in utter despair. I believe the reason to be, that the patient has only, or principally, a medicinal disease, and every new application of the miserable routine, only prolongs it.

Since the first few weeks, I have succeeded in avoiding any considerable draft on my time from this source, and have only been obliged in a few instances to follow the dictates of benevolence, in relieving distress and pain.

HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

"Medicines are salutary things," say the ignorant. They are so, but only under certain indispensable conditions. The medicine is salutary only when it is proper for the case. But no medicine is proper for health; and to use a medicine as a beverage in healthy ordinary life, is a ruinous attempt—is a contradiction in itself.

I respect the medicinal virtues of coffee, when it is medically employed in the right place, as much as I do those of every other medicament. Nothing in God's creation is superfluous; all things were created for the good of man, the more efficacious of them especially, among which coffee holds a distinguished rank. But listen to me.

Every single medicine produces some particular changes in the healthy human body, exclusively peculiar to itself. If we know these and employ the medicament in cases of sickness which have a nearly correspondent similarity to the changes which the drug itself is capable of producing in the healthy body, a radical cure follows. This application of the drug is the curative one, and the only one admissible in tedious diseases.

By the power of a medicine to produce a change in the human body, in the manner peculiar to it, I understand its first or original operation. I have already said, that the first action of a medicine (for some hours after

taking it) is the exact opposite of its re-action, or of the condition in which it leaves the body, as soon as its first operation is over.

If the original operation of a medicine is the exact opposite of the diseased condition of the body which we seek to cure, its application is *palliative*. An almost instantaneous improvement follows; but after some hours, the evil returns, and attains a greater height than before the use of the remedy; when the secondary effect of the medicine is similar to the primary disease, it strengthens the latter. A miserable mode of cure, when a disease of long standing is to be conquered.

For example,—the primary operation of opium on the healthy body is the production of a stupifying, snoring sleep, and its final effect the contrary, sleeplessness.

If, then, the physician is silly enough to attack a diseased habitual sleeplessness by means of opium, he proceeds by palliatives; a stupid, heavy, unrefreshing sleep soon follows the opium; but its re-action is, as has been said, sleeplessness, an addition to his former habitual sleeplessness, which only grows worse. After twenty-four hours, the patient sleeps still less than he did before taking the opium, unless a still stronger dose of it is used, whose re-action produces a still greater sleeplessness; that is, an increase of the evil which the physician vainly imagined he was seeking to cure.

In this way, too, coffee affords a mere palliative relief, when it is used as a remedy; for instance, in inveterate costiveness, proceeding from inactivity of the intestinal canal.* Its first action, as has been said, is the opposite of this condition; it has a palliative effect, and when used for the first time, or but seldom, soon opens the body, but afterwards, under its final operations, the costiveness becomes only so much the greater. If we attempt to remove this by coffee, in the same palliative method, we must either drink more, or have it made stronger, and the habitual costiveness is not discharged by it, for it makes its appearance, and in a more obstinate form, as the re-action of the coffee recurs, as soon as we cease to use this palliative, or do not employ stronger or more frequent doses.

We shall find, that the medical excuses which coffee drinkers advance to extenuate this habit, are all founded on this principle of

* This is commonly the case with sedentary persons.

palliation, and yet, nothing is more certain than that the long-continued employment of a medicine, as a palliative, is injurious; but the using medicine as food, is a palliative the most hurtful of all.

If, then, while I eschew its misuse as a daily beverage, I praise the great medical virtues of coffee, I am to be understood as referring only to its curative application in chronic complaints, which greatly resemble its primary operation, and of its palliative use in sudden and threatening diseases, which closely resemble its final operation. This is the only rational and wise use of a beverage which hundreds of millions misuse to their injury, which few understand the nature of, but which, in its proper place, is highly beneficial.

THE NEW YORK PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

This Society, chiefly composed of Allopathic practitioners, have recently voted out of their body a member who is as accomplished as any they possess—one zealously devoted to the objects of their Society, and a ripe scholar in all that appertains to the profession. He was voted out on the sole ground of his believing in the truth of Homœopathy, when his belief or disbelief in any of the medical theories could not in any possible way affect the object of the Association—nor was it even pretended that his peculiar views interfered with his usefulness as a member. As a known Homœopathist he was elected, and associated with them as such from the formation of the Society; but now he is suddenly called upon to renounce his faith or leave the Society. Why, at this special time, this spirit of intolerance?—The answer is found in the following facts.

But a few days ago, an association was formed in this city under the name of the *New York Academy of Medicine*, whose object surely should have been the advancement of the science of medicine; but, alas for poor human nature, which so often falls short of its mark, the spirit of partizanship entered their hall, and decided to build a surrounding wall, so broad and so high as effectually to exclude all light except such as may reside with them, and to roof it all over with a high-sounding title, borrowed from Paris direct. What a perfect old curiosity shop it will be—surely designed by some feeble old man in his dotage. The New York Pathological Society, desiring

as a body to take the veil and enter this medical monastery, were constrained to get rid of a truly worthy member, who would look beyond the wall into Nature. We rejoice that he chose the wiser and the nobler part, and, rather than abjure the truth, was willing to be thrust out; and we can but pity those who voluntarily forge chains for their minds, and thus narrow their intellectual horizon.

LETHEON.

We intended to have referred again to this article, of which so much has been said in the medical journals and newspapers; but, as its use has been so generally condemned, we do not deem it necessary. The more important reasons urged against it are, that it is capable, like other poisonous drugs when taken into the system in large doses, of producing "serious and almost fatal consequences." Many cases have been published illustrating its dangerous effects. Were those of other drugs—opium, antimony, calomel, iodine, &c.—carefully noticed, their use in the present reckless manner, in large doses, would be condemned for the same reasons.

The history of this substance affords another instance of the eagerness with which *new remedies* are seized upon as "triumphs in medical art," and the deplorable necessity which exists in the old school to determine only by hazardous experimenting, the means it may adopt for the treatment of the sick and the relief of suffering, while they reject and refuse even to examine fundamental principles in medicine, which alone can point out the path of safety and certainty in the administration of drugs.

What a contrast is furnished by the system of Hahnemann. While the Allopathist is driven on in the vain search after new things, which are introduced to-day with "a flourish of trumpets," and abandoned to-morrow, the Homœopathist, guided by fixed and immutable laws, is enabled to avoid pernicious changes in his art.

The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North-Fourth street.

HOMŒOPATHY AND ALLOPATHY COMPARED.

By S. ROSA, M. D., of Painesville, Ohio.

This is an interesting pamphlet of 32 pages, which may be read with profit.

The doctrines and practice of Hahnemann are spreading in Ohio. This system of medicine has been embraced in that State by some of the most eminent men of the profession; and its superiority in the treatment of the fevers of that section of our country is acknowledged by the people, who, in some instances, have to send fifty miles for a physician of our school.

BONNINGHAUSEN'S THERAPEUTIC POCKET BOOK.

We have received a communication from Otis Clapp, Boston, too late for insertion, announcing that he has in Press, and will publish in course of this week, the above work, edited by Dr. Okie. It will make a very neat volume, in the 18mo. form, and will be convenient for carrying in the pocket.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

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